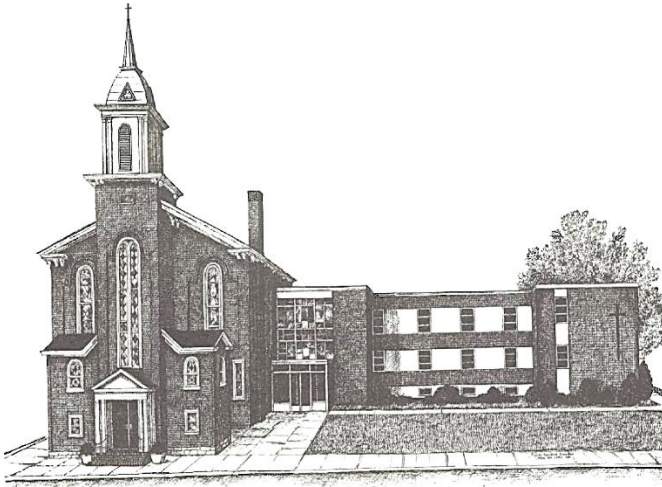


BETHANY MESSENGER



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

369 Broad Street

Montoursville, PA 17754 570-368-8933

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am-2:00pm

www.BethanyNALC.org

www.facebook.com/bethlutmtrsvlle

Email secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com

Sunday Services

9:00 am Holy Communion

10:15 am Coffee / Fellowship

10:30 am Sunday School

Emergency Pastoral Care Rev. James Bartlett

rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com / 570-9391471

Prayer Chain – Gail Stover 570-368-2282

Stover1104@gmail.com

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NUMBER 1

Bethany's Mission Statement:

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House & Chicken and Biscuit Dinner – Bethany will be hosting an Open House and Dinner on Saturday January 27th from 4:00 PM to 7:00PM, to be held in Memorial Hall. Exhibits of church history will be on display as well as tours of the church will be given.

Please pray this prayer daily

Prayer For Spiritual Renewal

Oh, loving Lord.

We know You and accept You as Lord and Savior.

So, we come to You seeking a fresh, new perspective,
not to throw away past lessons but for Your spirit to rebuild
and breathe new life into our faith. Show us how to do this.

Let us open ourselves completely to Your voice.

The voice that tells us God is love and in Christ all things are new.

Renew us and restore us in Christ name.

Amen



With Christmas and the “madness” of the holidays behind us I find myself wondering what some of you decided on for New Year’s resolutions. I am curious to know what is important to you and what you want to see change in this new year.

There are many things that I would like to change or complete this year, personally, professionally, and vocationally. My list may be longer than my arm and I will hopefully start to cross things off in the first week when I finish renovating part of the upstairs bathroom. I know the kids will be thankful when that is done. I would also like to begin planning for Lent and providing you with opportunities to be active in our ministry. There are too many things to list here. But nothing on my list is a resolution. I tend to try to set goals all year long, usually things get in the way of accomplishing some, but they are still on my list.

The Forbes Health/One Poll survey (December 18, 2023) found that the average resolution lasts just 3.74 months. Only 8% of respondents tend to stick with their goals for one month, while 22% last two months, 22% last three months and 13% last four months. I must admit that those are better percentages than I expected. When we make a resolution, we should keep in mind that these are things we want to change and if they are in matters of faith and spiritual discipline it should be a lifelong goal. As Christians we can never stop learning the deeper meaning of Scripture, praying to God, or living our faith. The good news is that we have a whole community of believers to encourage and support. When something happens and we cannot accomplish a goal when we want to, remember that it is your goal and sometimes we need to be patient in working toward what we want and need. God is with you and whatever the setback, He can use that situation for good in your life.

Whatever your goals I hope and pray that Bethany is encouraging and helpful in meeting the goals. If there is something we can do to support you in any aspect of personal or spiritual growth please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our church leaders. Knowing what you need helps us to plan our ministry activities to meet the needs of the congregation and community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor James

COUNCIL ACTIONS:
THE CHURCH COUNCIL HELD IT'S LAST
MEETING ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2023

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT- DAVE GRUBE
VICE PRESIDENT – MIKE STOVER
SECRETARY – NICOLE CAREY
TREASURER – WES MILLER

November Reports are posted outside the church office

Council Members: Jamie Brouse, Michael Brouse, Glenn Kaufman, Kathie Snauffer, Gail Stover, Michael Stover, Sally Lomison, Tracy Rhian, Dennis Smith

*Council will hold its next meeting **Monday January 15, at 7:15pm***

Income & Expenses through Nov. 2023

2023 Income	\$110,747.79
2023 Expenses	<u>151,425.10</u>
Expenses Over Income	- \$40,677.31

MINISTRY MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Mission Committee – Jan. 8 at 7:15 PM
Property Committee – Jan. 16 at 7:00 PM
Church Council – Jan. 15 at 7:15 PM

CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE: 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm., Monday through Thursday (570)368-8933
& email: secyBethanyNALC@gmail.com *this email can reach ALL STAFF
Gail Stover - Prayer Chain (570)971-5710 / stover1104@gmail.com
Rev. James Bartlett cell (570)-939-1471 email rev.james.bartlett@gmail.com
BETHANY'S WEB SITE: www.BethanyNALC.org
BETHANY'S FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/BethanyNALC.org

GRATITUDE AND PLEASE PRAY FOR

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Eugene Harris – Kevin Taylor- Julie Griffiths -Marjorie Fantaskey – Joan Hiller - Betty Rosencrans – Joan Swartz - Margaret Ryan – Biddie & Michael - Louise and Jim – Vonnie - Fay and Harold Sausser – Colleen Davidson - Jim Sechler – Lou and Emily Bassler- Ann & Tom Long- Matthew - Evelyn Seaman – Charlie – Piper - Sadie – Iva Kressler – Peggy Shultz – Lenny and Kathy Hinton – Eileen Lauchle — Bebe Bolich – Tonia Wilk – Mindy Gemberling and family – Leroy Hauck — Leonard Mullin – Dave Shipton – Bob Brown

GRATITUDE, UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Our family is so thankful for all of the cards and gifts we received from members of our congregation this Christmas. Thank you for your warm wishes, prayers, and generosity! We all feel truly blessed to be able to worship with you and be your partners in ministry and mission here at Bethany Lutheran Church. With all our love,
Pastor James and Jennifer

Open House & Chicken and Biscuit Dinner – Bethany will be hosting an Open House and Dinner on Saturday January 27th from 4:00 PM to 7:00PM, to be held in Memorial Hall. Exhibits of church history will be on display as well as tours of the church will be given.

Thank You to the Women of Bethany – Thank you all for the “Goodies” that Ray brought home from the church for me!! Also thank you pastor Bartlett for the communion visit; I really appreciate these. Thank you for the flowers that I have received and the cards. I miss all of you! Merry Christmas to everyone!!

Linda Bomboy

Thank You to the Women of the Church for their wonderful cookies. Thank you Pastor Bartlett for the visit and bringing Communion. It is greatly appreciated.

Vonnie Hawley

Thank You to everyone preparing for the Advent and Christmas Season and Services. Placing of the Manger Scene, Christmas Tree and decorating. Sanctuary preparations, Poinsettias provided and placement, Altar preparations, Extra cleaning in Sanctuary and throughout the church. The Childrens Christmas Program. Special Music provided by the Choir & Handbell Choir, Soloist and duets, for all of the occasions. Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes & monetary donations. Cookies and goodies for Shut-ins. Altar flower deliveries and visits made to shut-ins. Mostly; prayers given for one another and acts of kindness for those in need.



The Culture Translator content is from axis.org

"Connecting parents, Jesus, and Teens in a Disconnected World"

1. Content Warning

What it is: There's a logjam of social media content highlighting anxiety and trauma—and it's giving a new shape to teens' discussions of mental health.

What's the big idea? We've written here before about how bringing "therapy speak" into everyday conversation has significantly expanded the meaning of words like "trauma," "narcissism," "toxic," and "sociopath." Experts wonder if the term "anxiety" in particular has transcended a diagnosis and has now become a strong signifier of identity. This is further complicated by a cultural landscape in which identity is portrayed as permanent as well as outside of a person's control. But of course clinical anxiety symptoms aren't fixed; anxiety is treatable, and often ebbs and flows through different seasons over a lifetime. "Therapy Media," as writer Derek Thompson calls the rise in trending posts on mental health topics, are mainly broadcasts from non-experts who are speaking about their own experience and directing their commentary at both no one in particular and the world at large. As Thompson noted, "The share of adults receiving mental-health treatment is surging, but we have built an online ecosystem that thrives on the very principles that counselors implore us to reject."

Continue the conversation: *Do you think people with mental health conditions benefit from the way mental health is discussed online?*

2. What It Takes to Disciple Gen Z

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gives his disciples what is known as His “Great Commission”: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Jesus calls His followers to convey His revolutionary way of living and structuring society out into the world.

But of course, “discipleship” isn’t a concept exclusive to Christian formation; we are all, always, being formed by whoever and whatever we spend time with. So, instead of just letting ourselves glide in whatever direction our lifestyles (and culture) pull us in, true Christian disciples set a purposeful intention to become more like Jesus—and therefore, more like the men and women God intended us to be.

In our conversation with Awana President & CEO Matt Markins this week, we talked about how the advance of modern technology has coincided with a shift in our culture’s dominant worldview (a shift that partially explains why the average TikTok For You Page isn’t necessarily a slideshow of Christian programming). We talk also about how discipling the next generation needs to involve intentional counter-programming to how our culture currently programs/disciples us. One of Jesus’ refrains in the Sermon on the Mount is “You have heard it said, but I say to you”; in a similar way, counter-programming involves knowing how our culture frames various topics well enough to be able to highlight how following Jesus stands out.

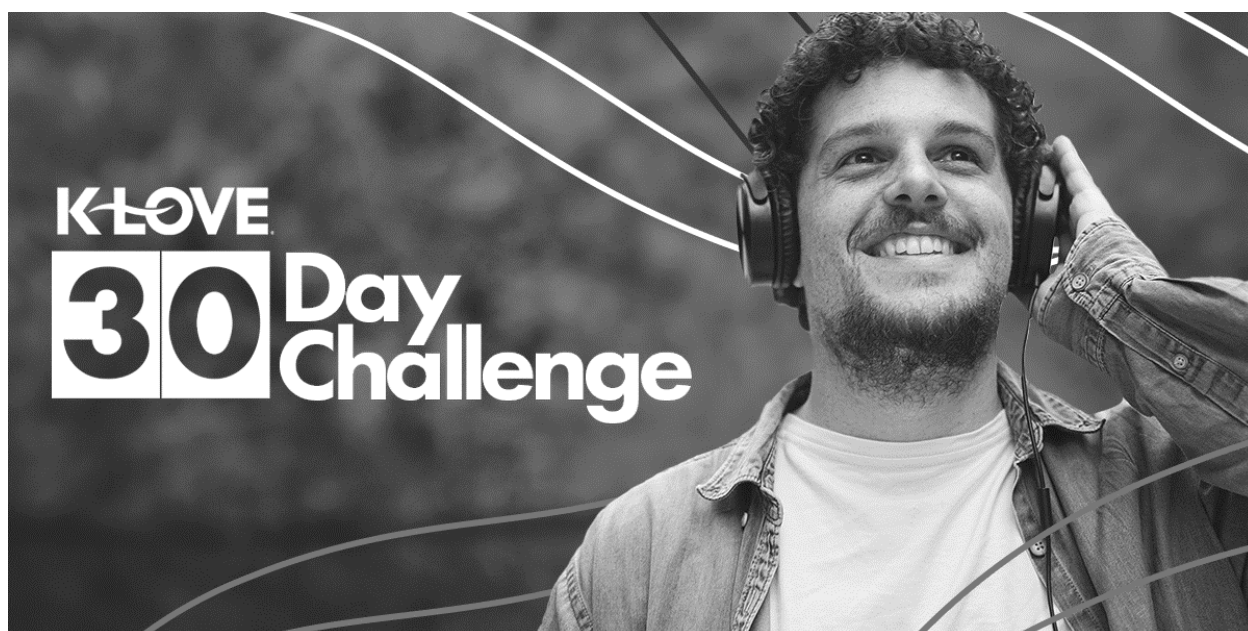
Here are three questions to help continue the conversation about discipleship:

- What do you think is the difference between being a Christian and being a disciple of Jesus?
- Do you agree that we are always being formed by the people and things we spend time with? Why or why not?

If you could apply “You have heard it said, but I say to you” to one dominant idea in our culture, what would it be?

3. YouTuber MrBeast criticized for his philanthropy.

MrBeast’s main account remained the most subscribed-to account on YouTube this year, racking up 219 million subscribers. Many of his videos spotlight philanthropic efforts, like building wells in Africa and paying for cataract removal surgery for 1,000 people who had impaired vision. Some of his efforts drew criticism from those who found this content exploitative. These moments of criticism perhaps say less about MrBeast himself and more about how complicated it is to perform public acts of charity in a world where any action can be perceived as “chasing clout.” But they also created a prime opportunity for Christian families to discuss the meaning of Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:1-4.



Can a small change in your daily habits impact your entire 2024?

Absolutely! One of easiest resolutions you can commit to is K-LOVE's 30 Day Challenge. Simply listen to K-LOVE for 30 days and see what impact it can have on your life. Whether you're new to K-LOVE or taking the challenge for the tenth time, all are welcome to join. Even if you're already listening to K-LOVE each day, you can sign up. AND it's never too late to make the commitment. Surround yourself with the talk and music on K-LOVE that will help you focus on God...music like HITS DEEP artist TobyMac. Listen now to K-LOVE by downloading the mobile app or on the online player.



88.1 FM – Williamsport, reaches Muncy, Hughesville, Warrensville, Cogan Station and Jersey Shore.

95.9 FM – Bloomsburg, reaches Montoursville, Muncy, Hughesville, Unityville, Red Rock, Benton, Nanicoke, Berwick, Mount Carmel, Shamokin, Milton, Mifflinburg, Sunbury, Selinsgrove and Port Trevorton.



GodLovesMarriage.org is the Lutheran expression of Worldwide Marriage Encounter – the original, faith-based, marriage enrichment experience that has helped millions of couples in over 80 countries find more joy and happiness in their marriage relationship.

Enrich your relationship with your spouse with a **Lancaster, PA Marriage Encounter** weekend experience! April 5-7, 2023. <https://godlovesmarriage.org/>



Bethany will be Hosting an Open House on Saturday January 27th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM A Chicken and Waffle Dinner will be held at this time in Memorial Hall.
Exhibits of church history will be on display and tours of the church will be given.

January 2024

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birthdays * Anniversaries **	1 church office closed	2 * Bonnie Schler	3 * Betty Rosencrans	4 <i>Renewal Meeting</i> 7:00 PM	5	6 The Epiphany Of Our Lord
7 <u>The Baptism of Our Lord</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee /Fellowship – Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School	8 <i>Mission Comm.</i> 7:15 PM Items for Council due	9 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	10 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	11 Bible Study 7:00 PM Meadows 10:30 AM Seekers Rm Reserved 7PM	12	13
14 <u>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</u> 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship –Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School Organization Report Due * Shelby Sitler	15 <i>Church Council</i> 7:15 pm Martin Luther King, Jr.	16 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM <i>Church Property</i> 7:00 PM Newsletter items Due	17 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	18 Confession Of St. Peter <i>AMR Western Mission District Clergy Meeting</i> 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM	19	20
21 <u>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</u> 9:00AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM coffee / Fellowship –Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School Tureen Luncheon 12:00 PM	22 <i>Worship & Music</i> 7:15 pm	23 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	24 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM	25 Bible Study 7:00 PM <i>Conversion Of St. Paul STS Ministerium</i> 12PM -2 PM	26	27 <i>Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Open House</i> * Denise Bergenstoc k
28 <u>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</u> Handbell Choir 9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:00 AM Coffee / Fellowship Memorial Hall 10:45 AM Sunday School	29	30 Quilters 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Stuff Newsletters *Michael Brouse * Judy Eck	31 Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM * Ruth Kissell			

